(c) whether any long-term plan has been formulated by his Ministry to make the industry's presence felt in the large International market and the expanding domestic market; if so, its broad features and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to encourage investment in the food processing sector including fruits & vegetable processing sector, Government, besides declaring this sector as a priority industry, have de-licensed this sector and provided fiscal concession in capital goods and exempted the fruits and vegetable products from excise duty. It has also allowed automatic approval for technology agreements, foreign equity investment upto 51% within specified norms. Higher foreign equity investment are also allowed on a case to case basis. Government is also implementing various Plan schemes to promote post-harvest infrastructure for export and domestic market. Certain Plan schemes of the Government also aim at enhancement of processing capabilities, awareness and thereby market expansion of certain fruits & vegetable products, research & development and quality control facilities, etc. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is trying to encourage exports by arranging participations in the international exhibitions in India and abroad besides organising buyer-seller meets and promotion of fruits & vegetables and their products abroad.

Manufacture of soft drinks concentrate by M/s. Phillip of US

2494. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether yet another US based beverage giant M/s. Phillip Morris who is keen to enter India, has proposed to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary for the manufacture of soft drink concentrate;

(b) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has since cleared this proposal; if so, on what terms and conditions;

(c) what is its impact on the soft drinks industry in India-both foreign and indigenous; and

(d) what is Government's present thinking on permitting foreign soft drinks firms to set up their ventures in India-wholly owned or in collaboration with the Indian Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The soft drinks industry is delicensed. Each proposal for manufacture of soft drinks, received from a foreign company for setting up a wholly-owned subsidiary or a joint venture with an Indian company is examined on merits.

Assistance to fruit and vegetable-based industries in Gujarat

2495. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing assistance to the fruit and vegetable based industries in various districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided during each of the last two years and which is proposed to be provided during the next financial year;

(c) whether certain schemes regarding fruit and vegetable-based industries in these districts of the State are pending with Government for approval; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d). The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various developmental plan schemes which seek to provide assistance for setting up of new/expansion/ upgradation of fruit & vegetable based industries in various States including Gujarat. However, no State-wise or District-wise targets have been laid down for the purpose of extending such assistance. The following assistance has been provided to Gujarat during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94;

Year	Amount of Assistance released	Purpose
1992-93	—	—
1993-94	Rs. 2.30 lakhs.	For setting up of one FPTC at Bardoli in Dist Surat in Gujarat.

Besides, an assistance of Rs. 6.00 lakhs has been provided to Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad for setting up of 2 Food Processing & Training Centres one each at Junagadh & Gandevi in Distt. Valsad in Gujarat. As the proposal seeking assistance has to be mooted by the organisation in the States concerned, extent of assistance to be provided in the next financial year is not possible to be anticipated at present.

A proposal from Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Ahmedabad seeking assistance for setting up of Agro Parlours in the State of Gujarat and Rajasthan has been received during the current financial year 1994-95. Action has already been initiated on it.

Deep sea fishing licences to MNCs and NRIs

2496. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved any proposal for giving licences to the multinationals and NRIs for deep sea fishing since 1st January, 1992;

(b) if so, the number of licences issued, the names of the Companies and the names of their Boards of Directors, with names and addresses;

(c) the mode of financing each project; and

(d) the present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d). While no permission has been given to any multi-national company for deep sea fishing in Indian Waters, 5 deep sea fishing projects on Joint Venture/Leasing by Indian companies involving NRI participation have been approved since January, 1992. The names of the companies, names of the Directors, mode of financing and the status of the projects, is given at statement.